(c) whether the price of aviation fuel is uniform across the country or it is different in various Indian airports; and

(d) whether there is any price difference for Indian scheduled Airlines and foreign airlines refueling in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) attracts basic customs duty @ 10% and central excise duty @ 8% as against the CENVAT rate of 14%. Value Added Tax (VAT) is levied by States and may vary across states.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) and (d) The price of ATF at a given place is dependent upon number of factors and is determined by the supplier.

Parity of pay scales for third and fourth grades employees

†4216. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to bring pay scales of fourth and third grade employees at par while implementing the report of Sixth Central Pay Commission;

(b) whether Government is considering to give minimum pay scale of Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 12,000/- to fourth and third grade employees respectively; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission are under examination of a Committee of Secretaries.

Corruption in Public Sector Banks

4217. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that corruption is rampant in Public Sector Banks specially in financing loans;

(b) whether it is also a fact that builders mafia/construction companies easily get the loan financed even in the name of non-existing persons;

(c) if so, what action Government contemplates to take against erring officials; and

(d) if so, what action Government has taken against PNB Housing Ltd. Noida Branch which had granted loans against non-existing persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Government do not subscribe to the view that corruption is rampant in the Public Sector Banks in the matter of loans. It is also not a fact that builder mafia/construction companies easily get loans financed by the banks as there are well defined systems and procedures in the banks for verifying the antecedents of the applicants before

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.